

House Watch

A summary of today's House actions;
published daily when the House is in session.



2/28/08

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

[HB 5535](#)

(Tobocman)

House Bill 5535 would create a new act, to be known as "the Enhanced Driver License and Enhanced Official State Personal Identification Card Act." As introduced, the act carried an effective date of January 1, 2008.

- The House concurred in the Senate substitute S-2 [RC 118: 101 yes, 3 no]

FINAL PASSAGE

[HB 5543](#)

(LeBlanc)

The bill creates a new act to allow officials in local governments (counties, cities, villages, townships, or charter townships) to fingerprint applicants or licensees in certain occupations for the purpose of obtaining state and national criminal history record information.

- Committee substitute H-1 was not adopted
- LeBlanc substitute H-3 was adopted
- Tobocman 2A was adopted
- HB 5543 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5543 was passed [RC 123: 88 yes, 18 no]
- IE was ordered

HB 4886**(Clack)**

House Bill 4886 would amend the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1164) to specify that if a school district or charter school taught *African history in an elementary grade*, then the board would be required to ensure that the content of the instruction was focused on one or more of the following kingdoms: Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Benin, Bornu, Nubia, Axum, Meroe, Medieval Ethiopia, or the Swahili Coast.

- Committee substitute H-1 was adopted
- HB 4886 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 4886 was passed [RC 119: 104 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

HB 4902**(Nofs)**

House Bill 4902 would amend the Revised School Code (MCL 380. 1164b) to specify that if a school district or charter school taught *world history in a middle or high school grade*, then the board would be required to ensure that the content of the instruction was focused on at least one or more of the following kingdoms: Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Benin, Bornu, Nubia, Axum, Meroe, Monomotapa, or Medieval Ethiopia. The instruction could also focus on the Swahili Coast prior to 1750. The bill specifies that this section would not prohibit or limit teaching about other areas of African history.

- Committee substitute H-1 was adopted
- HB 4902 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 4902 was passed [RC 120: 106 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

HB 5459**(Mayes)**

The bill would amend the Commercial Rehabilitation Act with the aim of making property tax abatements available for new commercial buildings constructed on vacant property where previous structures have been demolished, if the new construction is an economic benefit to the local community, as determined by the local unit of government (a city, village, or township). The bill would apply only to a city with a population of more than 36,000 and less than 37,000 according to the 2000 federal decennial census. (This applies to Bay City and Jackson.)

- Committee substitute H-2 was adopted
- HB 5459 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5459 was passed [RC 121: 106 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

HB 5723**(Bieda)**

The bill would amend the newly enacted Michigan Business Tax to allow taxpayers to claim a credit equal to 75 percent of contributions made to the reserve fund of a fiduciary organization

under the Individual or Family Development Account Program Act. This would also apply to financial institutions participating in an account program.

- Bieda-1 was adopted
- HB 5723 advanced to 3rd Reading
- HB 5723 was passed [RC 122: 106 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

SB 523

(Gilbert)

The bill would authorize the State Administrative Board to convey the old Lapeer State Police Post in Lapeer County. The State Administrative Board would have to convey the former State Police Post in Lapeer to the highest bidder, but for not less than fair market value as determined by an appraisal. The sale was previously authorized in Public Act 192 of 1989; however, that was an appropriation Act and the authorization has expired. The property consists of approximately three acres and is located next to the current Lapeer Post property. The old Lapeer State Police Post was demolished in 1992. Under the bill, the State could not reserve the mineral rights to the property conveyed. However, if the purchaser or any grantee developed any oil, gas, or minerals found on, within, or under the conveyed property, the State would receive one-half of the gross revenue generated from the development of the minerals. All rights in aboriginal antiquities, including mounds, earthworks, forts, burial and village sites, mines, and other relics, on, within, or under the property would be reserved by the State.

- SB 523 advanced to 3rd Reading
- SB 523 was passed [RC 124: 106 yes, 0 no]
- IE was ordered

THIRD READING

HB 4923

(Meisner)

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to provide that if the Department of Human Services determines an individual is eligible for food assistance benefits of \$150 per month or more, it would issue regular food assistance benefits to that individual two times per month. The department could continue to issue food assistance benefits one time per month to recipients receiving assistance benefits less than \$150 per month. The department could also continue to issue food assistance benefits to the recipient on a staggered basis based on the case ending digit. The bill would not apply to the issuance of initial food benefits, retroactive assistance benefits, or supplemental food assistance benefits

- Committee substitute H-1 was adopted
- Shaffer-2 withdrawn
- HB 4923 advanced to 3rd Reading

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

[HR 291](#)

(Tobocman)

A resolution to amend the Standing Rules of the House of Representatives.

- HR 291 was adopted

[HR 287](#)

(Clack)

A resolution proclaiming February 28, 2008, as Reps Read Across Michigan Day 2008.

- HR 287 was adopted

[HR 288](#)

(Melton)

A resolution recognizing March 2008 as Reading Month in the state of Michigan.

- HR 288 was adopted

[HR 289](#)

(Sak)

A resolution to honor the life of Douglas A. Fraser.

- HR 289 was adopted

[HR 290](#)

(Brown)

A resolution commemorating March 2008 as Parenting Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

- HR 290 was adopted